

# LLOYD HERBERT SHINNERS 1918-1971

WM. F. MAHLER<sup>1</sup>

*Herbarium and Department of Biology,  
Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75222*

Lloyd Herbert Shinnery was born at Blue Sky (Peace River country), Alberta, Canada on 22 September 1918, and moved with his parents to Wisconsin at an early age where he attended the public schools in Milwaukee. As valedictorian of his high school class, he received a scholarship and attended the University of Wisconsin where he obtained the B.A. (1940), M.A. (1941), and Ph.D. (1943).

He accepted a position as research assistant in systematic botany at SMU in 1945. He became a member of the academic faculty in 1947 (Assistant Professor, 1947; Associate Professor, 1955; Professor, 1960), Acting Director of the Herbarium in 1948, and Director of the Herbarium in 1949.

His life was devoted to taxonomic botany and his major goals were achieved within his lifetime. The chief goal was to make the S.M.U. Herbarium the largest and finest in the South and Southwest. His principal concern in the last few years was to keep the S.M.U. Herbarium and its taxonomic library in that position. The S.M.U. Herbarium grew from ca. 20,000 to 340,000 specimens in the 23 years it was under his direction. The top priority of the herbarium activities was to mount and file plant specimens so others could borrow them for study. When I came to the SMU Herbarium in 1968, this top priority was quite apparent for he was mounting an average of 10,000 sheets per year himself in addition to his other numerous activities. Herbarium loans ranked high in the unofficial list of priorities and in the last few years, over 5,000 sheets per year were loaned to other institutions for research purposes.

The taxonomic library is ranked between 12th and 15th in the nation and the best in the South and Southwest (south of the Missouri Botanical Garden, east of Berkeley, California to Chapel Hill, N.C.). His diligence and persistence in obtaining a good buy on a book was often rewarded only after years of searching book catalogues. He was proud of the taxonomic library and its position within the herbarium where the literature is readily available when one needs it. His knowledge of seven languages enabled him to operate this facet very efficiently.

In addition to the curatorial duties, his research activities resulted in over 250 single author publications ranging from short nomenclatural notes to his book, "Spring Flora of the Dallas-Fort Worth Area." Plans are

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<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank his sister, Mrs. Helen Koresh (800 Western Ave., Cedarburg, Wisconsin, 53012), for providing the photograph.



being made to publish a complete bibliography in the future. When he had difficulty in publishing a lengthy and somewhat controversial manuscript, he founded his own botanical journal, "Sida, Contributions to Botany," and that manuscript was the first article in the new journal. He wanted to have at least one controversial paper per volume even though it was not always possible. When papers were turned down by other journals because of political reasons, etc., he would delight in publishing them. Very few, however, were submitted and published for these reasons. Priorities were also established with nomenclatural papers taking the highest rank.

Until I came to SMU, I regarded him as more of an "armchair botanist"—one of his many postcard signatures, for he seldom signed his name—than as a field botanist in spite of his high collection numbers. The necessity of field work was emphasized and I soon realized that he spent more time in the field than any other botanist I had ever known. In the last few years, he averaged at least 5 days per month in the field studying distribution, various species complexes, as well as general collecting. Some individuals have regarded his knowledge of plants as "intuition" which he would jokingly comment that they, too, could have this "intuition" if they would only study the plants in the field. An attempt to become a citizen of the United States evolved into a major ordeal and, thus, he remained a Canadian citizen living within the United States, unable to travel and collect plants outside of its boundaries.

Money was a necessity that he used for purchasing private herbaria, taxonomic literature and plant collections, to finance field trips, subsidize authors not able to pay page costs, for photocopying journal articles, entertaining visitors, etc. The source of the money was of no particular concern—the meager herbarium budget, his personal salary, gifts, or the Dallas Teachers Credit Union; if he did not have the money, he borrowed it.

My association with him the past three years compels me to comment upon an item which has been a constant source of irritation or amusement depending upon the origin—the personality of L. H. Shoiners. He was one of the most congenial individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with or for in any business or academic capacity. He was a soft-spoken person, never raising his voice regardless of how perturbed he might be, who always had time to discuss any item that you presented him with and who usually gave you a detailed history of the origin, etc., of the subject matter. Arguments were nil; he stated his viewpoints and listened to mine and the "discussion" ended unless references were sought in conjunction with nomenclatural topics, etc. Responsibilities assigned to me, such as student help, etc., were wholly mine and he stated often, "I'll sign whatever you bring me" in regard to papers requiring his signature as Director. He eliminated or ignored all paper work which did not contribute directly to the objectives of the Herbarium. He was very conscious of public relations and tried to reflect a good image for the SMU Herbarium.

In evaluating his abilities as an administrator, he would rank extremely



high in efficiency. His ability to avoid busy-work associated with administrative duties was incredible. One example was his use of postcards which enabled him to carry a heavy correspondence load with less effort, comparatively speaking (no duplicate letters to be retained for filing, no forms for loans, exchanges, etc.). Herbarium records were extensive but a pen and note cards were used in the place of typed forms so common (occupy less space and easier to handle for preparation of annual report). It was noted by the lawyer of his estate that the same operation in any normal business would have required a herbarium assistant, secretary, typist, and accountant. Yet, one man who was in ill-health for many years and nearly blind at the time of death, performed all of these functions.

His diabetic condition, which plagued him for many years, contributed to a gradual decline in his health. After a short illness and hospitalization, he died on the evening of 16 February 1971 at the Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas, Texas.